

Date Mailed August 6, 1998

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of the Village of Union Grove,
Racine County, as a Water Public Utility,
for Authority to Increase Water Rates

6020-WR-104

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION, TELEPHONIC HEARING,
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

On May 20, 1998, the Village of Union Grove, Racine County, (applicant), as a water public utility, filed an application with the Public Service Commission (Commission) under ss. 196.03, 196.20, and 196.37, Stats., for authority to increase water rates.

Applicant requests a rate increase which will produce a 7.50 percent rate of return on net investment rate base. Applicant cites increases in operating expenses and the value of its utility plant, since its last rate case in 1994, as the primary reasons for needing this increase.

The Commission staff has proposed an overall increase in rates of 17 percent. If staff's proposal is approved, an average residential customer's bill would increase 22 percent, from \$27.69 to \$33.87, quarterly. (An average residential customer is one using 19,000 gallons of water quarterly.)

The utility is responsible for notice to its customers of the filing of the above application with the Commission, and, pursuant to s. PSC 2.73, Wis. Adm. Code, for producing proof of such notice at the hearing.

This is a Type III action under s. PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. No unusual circumstances suggesting the likelihood of significant environmental consequences have come to the Commission's attention. Neither an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commission will hold a public hearing on August 27, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. This will be a telephonic hearing involving three sites. The applicant's consultant will participate from his office in Milwaukee. The applicant will provide a room for customer participation in the Municipal Building located at 1015 State Street, Union Grove, Wisconsin. Customers may call the utility at (414) 878-1818 for further details on the location of the hearing room. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Commission staff will participate from the Tomorrow River Room in the Public Service Commission Office Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin. This building is accessible to people in

wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor entrance (lobby). Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact Richard Teslaw, General Services Assistant, at (608) 267-9766. Customers may participate from either the Union Grove or Madison location.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this matter is deemed to be a Class 1 proceeding as defined in s. 227.01(3)(a), Stats.

Staff shall file a synopsis or summary of the testimony or other evidence presented at the hearing in this case. The parties, pursuant to sec. 196.24(3), stats., as amended by 1997 Wisconsin Act 204, sec. 24, may demonstrate that a synopsis or summary is not sufficiently complete or accurate to fairly reflect the relevant and material testimony or other evidence presented at the hearing.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Commission deems it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant, in accordance with the provisions of s. 196.85, Stats., and Ch. PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

If there are any questions regarding the hearing scheduled in this notice, please call Nancy Anthony, Examining Division at (608) 266-1261.

Other questions regarding this matter may be directed to Vishwa Kashyap at (608) 266-2029.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

For the Commission.

Joyce A. Narveson, Administrator
Division of Water, Compliance and Consumer Affairs

JAN:VMK:mlo:G:\NOTICE\6020-WR-104.doc